Title of Proposal - Metz Solar Farm

### Section 1 - Summary of your proposed action

Provide a summary of your proposed action, including any consultations undertaken.

#### 1.1 Project Industry Type

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

## 1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities.

The Project involves a large-scale solar farm with a maximum capacity of 100MW within a 507 ha development footprint, situated on land described as Lot 18,61, 77, 80, 95, 105, 107, 108,112 & 124 on DP755830 "Bayley Park", Grafton Road, Metz. The facility will be connected to the grid via an existing 132KV line that crosses the property. A preliminary site layout has been developed, with the final design is subject to TransGrid Approval. It is envisaged that the Project will include the following:

- Transformers;
- Arrays;
- circuit breakers;
- metering equipment;
- control room;
- storage shed;
- lattice communication tower;
- low voltage power connection;
- overhead cables connecting the substation to the existing 132kV line;
- perimeter fencing;
- perimeter screening; and
- parking spaces.

It is proposed to construct a solar farm on existing grazing land that has been historically cleared of vegetation cover. Vegetation can be found around ridgelines, within road reserves and sporadically within the paddocks.

# 1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action? Use the polygon tool on the map below to mark the location of your proposed action.

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	1	-30.533867892668	151.87888593258



Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	2	-30.53339474756	151.87895459609
1	3	-30.533927039029	151.87902325959
1	4	-30.53339474756	151.87112683625
1	5	-30.533927039029	151.86789960446
1	6	-30.531916159882	151.86858624997
1	7	-30.531502153105	151.86810560021
1	8	-30.53132471851	151.86625165419
1	9	-30.532271026587	
1			151.86467237267
1	10	-30.529964387883	151.86377973141
1	11	-30.529964387883	151.86597699494
1	12	-30.528840627231	151.86652631344
1	13	-30.528544897633	151.86604566368
1	14	-30.52759855326	151.86432904991
1	15	-30.526060735278	151.86364240441
1	16	-30.523103314184	151.8624064404
1	17	-30.522334368151	151.8624064404
1	18	-30.521683714673	151.86110181288
1	19	-30.522275214733	151.86082715363
1	20	-30.522452665854	151.86027784037
1			
1	21	-30.522334368151	151.85979718537
1	22	-30.520086648335	151.86027784037
1	23	-30.518607858135	151.86199445414
1	24	-30.517188201986	151.8630930859
1	25	-30.517247349475	151.86343640866
1	26	-30.516360052136	151.86412305417
1	27	-30.516182598917	151.86405439066
1	28	-30.513816428764	151.86549634518
1	29	-30.523931397553	151.87840527758
1	30	-30.526001584128	151.87916059183
1	31	-30.526533916105	151.88046521411
1	32	-30.533867892668	151.87888593258
1	32	-30.333007092000	131.07000393230
2	1	-30.513638961876	151.86508435892
2	2	-30.516241747017	151.86357373566
2	3	-30.518844471495	151.86089582237
2	4	-30.519672591152	151.86014050812
2	5	-30.519258532205	151.85224408479
2	6	-30.520559858252	151.84606427521
2	7	-30.51541359813	151.84338636193
2	8	-30.51505866986	151.84414167094
2	9	-30.5127516316	151.84475965294
2	10	-30.510740314243	151.84427899794
2	11	-30.510089592182	151.84324902968
2	12	-30.50162973687	151.84510297569
2	13	-30.501452247739	151.84359235243
2	14	-30.500268990624	151.84372968468

2         15         -30.500328157433         151.84510297569           2         16         -30.500564806252         151.845612228986           2         17         -30.500156668926         151.8452727996           2         18         -30.499677356668         151.84544629845           2         19         -30.498020765157         151.845828896           2         20         -30.498020765157         151.8453089662           2         21         -30.498020765157         151.8453089662           2         22         -30.497606609485         151.844167094           2         23         -30.49689630681         151.843224902968           2         24         -30.49341669905         151.84498564315           2         25         -30.493346649905         151.84498564345           2         26         -30.493240800275         151.849638839447           2         28         -30.492340800275         151.849684835           2         29         -30.491867453019         151.849638435           2         29         -30.491867453019         151.849638435           2         30         -30.491867453019         151.849684835           2         31 <t< th=""><th>Area</th><th>Point</th><th>Latitude</th><th>Longitude</th></t<>	Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
2         16         -30.500150665926         151.84665228896           2         17         -30.500150665926         151.846627027096           2         18         -30.499677356668         151.8464829845           2         19         -30.499026556064         151.84482831644           2         20         -30.498494077961         151.8453989662           2         21         -30.498060766157         151.8453989662           2         22         -30.497606609485         151.84414167094           2         23         -30.496896630681         151.84324902968           2         24         -30.493346649905         151.84427899794           2         26         -30.493346649905         151.84496564345           2         27         -30.492340800275         151.84798688473           2         28         -30.492340800275         151.84798688473           2         29         -30.491867453019         151.84532878527           2         31         -30.496127477366         151.851822878527           2         31         -30.496127477366         151.8518522878527           2         33         -30.5070075142         151.852089393           2         34	2	15		
2         17         -30.500150665926         151.84627027096           2         18         -30.499677356668         151.8454629845           2         19         -30.498020765157         151.8445231644           2         20         -30.498020765157         151.8453089662           2         21         -30.498060766157         151.8453089662           2         22         -30.496896630681         151.8414167094           2         23         -30.496896630681         151.84224902968           2         24         -30.49397488509         151.84263105029           2         25         -30.49397488509         151.84496564345           2         26         -30.4932340800275         151.8479688473           2         28         -30.492340800275         151.8479688473           2         29         -30.491857453019         151.849634835           2         29         -30.491857453019         151.8479688473           2         29         -30.491453275666         151.8518209853           2         30         -30.50660620981         151.8549634835           2         31         -30.50790075142         151.8502408479           2         32				
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2         24         -30.494411659545         151.84263105029           2         25         -30.493997488509         151.84427897994           2         26         -30.493346649905         151.84496564345           2         27         -30.49293247885         151.84633893447           2         28         -30.492340800275         151.84798688473           2         29         -30.491867453019         151.8540234835           2         30         -30.49163277666         151.85128278527           2         31         -30.496127477366         151.85128278527           2         32         -30.500860620981         151.8540293673           2         32         -30.500860620981         151.8540293673           2         33         -30.503108785323         151.85238141703           2         34         -30.507013368774         151.85238141703           2         35         -30.50790075142         151.85299939903           2         37         -30.508906440156         151.85183209853           2         38         -30.50790075142         151.8529341138529           2         39         -30.511450201019         151.85306806254           2         40	2			
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2         27         -30.49293247885         151.84633893447           2         28         -30.492340800275         151.84798688473           2         29         -30.491867453019         151.849634835           2         30         -30.491453275666         151.85128278527           2         31         -30.496127477366         151.85183209853           2         32         -30.500860620981         151.8540293673           2         33         -30.5075120251511         151.8512832414703           2         34         -30.507103368774         151.85224408479           2         35         -30.507013368774         151.85299939903           2         36         -30.50790075142         151.85299939903           2         37         -30.508906440156         151.85183209853           2         38         -30.50791279432         151.8518329853           2         38         -30.512160073584         151.85183299853           2         38         -30.512160073584         151.85341138529           2         40         -30.513597270162         151.85196943077           2         42         -30.51541359813         151.851241411652           2         43				
2         28         -30.492340800275         151.84798688473           2         29         -30.491867453019         151.849634835           2         30         -30.491453275666         151.85128278527           2         31         -30.496127477366         151.85183209853           2         32         -30.500860620981         151.85183209853           2         33         -30.503108785323         151.85238141703           2         34         -30.505120251511         151.85228408479           2         35         -30.5079075142         151.85229939903           2         36         -30.50790075142         151.85299939903           2         36         -30.5099071279432         151.85183209853           2         38         -30.5099071279432         151.8518329939939           2         38         -30.509971279432         151.85341138529           2         39         -30.511450261019         151.85341138529           2         39         -30.512160073584         151.8531275353           2         41         -30.513757270162         151.85196943077           2         42         -30.5143598813         151.85148877577           2         43	2			
2         29         -30.491867453019         151.849634835           2         30         -30.491453275666         151.85128278527           2         31         -30.496127477366         151.8512829853           2         32         -30.500860620981         151.8540293673           2         33         -30.503108785323         151.85238141703           2         34         -30.505120251511         151.85238141703           2         35         -30.50790075142         151.85299939903           2         36         -30.50790075142         151.85299939903           2         37         -30.508906440156         151.85183209853           2         37         -30.508906440156         151.85183209853           2         38         -30.509971279432         151.8534138529           2         39         -30.511450201019         151.8534138529           2         39         -30.512160073584         151.85231275353           2         40         -30.513757270162         151.85196943077           2         41         -30.51541359813         151.85148877577           2         42         -30.517247349475         151.85272473978           2         45	2			
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2       40       -30.512160073584       151.85231275353         2       41       -30.513757270162       151.85196943077         2       42       -30.51541359813       151.851214111652         2       43       -30.517129045436       151.85148877577         2       44       -30.517602269753       151.85272473978         2       45       -30.517247349475       151.85588330807         2       46       -30.516892436927       151.855656995358         2       47       -30.516182598917       151.85656995358         2       48       -30.516064284556       151.8586298901         2       49       -30.51499952104       151.8586298901         2       49       -30.514112203183       151.85965985836         2       50       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.513757270162       151.86487836318         2       57				
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2       43       -30.517129045436       151.85148877577         2       44       -30.517602269753       151.85272473978         2       45       -30.517247349475       151.85588330807         2       46       -30.516892436927       151.85705060334         2       47       -30.516182598917       151.85656995358         2       48       -30.516064284556       151.8580119081         2       49       -30.51499952104       151.8586298901         2       50       -30.5144112203183       151.85938519911         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       52       -30.514112203183       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86082715363         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.514230510893       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86487836318         2       58       -30.513698111524       151.86494702668	2			
2       44       -30.517602269753       151.85272473978         2       45       -30.517247349475       151.85588330807         2       46       -30.516892436927       151.85705060334         2       47       -30.516182598917       151.85656995358         2       48       -30.516064284556       151.8580119081         2       49       -30.51499952104       151.8586298901         2       50       -30.514112203183       151.85938519911         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       52       -30.514112203183       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.514230510893       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86508435892         2       58       -30.513698111524       151.86494702668				
2       45       -30.517247349475       151.85588330807         2       46       -30.516892436927       151.85705060334         2       47       -30.516182598917       151.85656995358         2       48       -30.516064284556       151.8580119081         2       49       -30.51499952104       151.8586298901         2       50       -30.514112203183       151.85965985836         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       52       -30.514112203183       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.514230510893       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86508435892         2       58       -30.513757270162       151.86494702668				
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2       47       -30.516182598917       151.85656995358         2       48       -30.516064284556       151.8580119081         2       49       -30.51499952104       151.8586298901         2       50       -30.514112203183       151.85938519911         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       52       -30.514112203183       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.513520653446       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86508435892         2       58       -30.513757270162       151.86487836318         2       58       -30.513698111524       151.86494702668				
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2       49       -30.51499952104       151.8586298901         2       50       -30.514112203183       151.85938519911         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       52       -30.514112203183       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.514230510893       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86508435892         2       58       -30.513757270162       151.8649702668	2			
2       50       -30.514112203183       151.85938519911         2       51       -30.513579803165       151.85965985836         2       52       -30.514112203183       151.86082715363         2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.514230510893       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86508435892         2       58       -30.513757270162       151.86487836318         2       59       -30.513698111524       151.86494702668	2			
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2       53       -30.513402335845       151.86220044465         2       54       -30.51263332209       151.8624064404         2       55       -30.513520653446       151.86288709016         2       56       -30.514230510893       151.86405439066         2       57       -30.513757270162       151.86508435892         2       58       -30.513757270162       151.86487836318         2       59       -30.513698111524       151.86494702668	2			
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2 59 -30.513698111524 151.86494702668	2			
2 60 -30.513638961876 151.86508435892				
	2	60	-30.513638961876	151.86508435892

1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland).

The Project is located approximately 18 km east of Armidale, within the Armidale Regional Council's Local Government Area (LGA). The Development Footprint is immediately north of Waterfall Way (locally known as Grafton Road) and is accessed via Bayley Park Road on land described as Lot 18, 61, 77, 80, 95, 105, 107, 108,112 & 124 on DP755830.

The Project is located in a sparsely populated rural setting, approximately 4.5 km north-west of the village of Hillgrove. Two uninhabited residences are located to the south of the Project Area. The majority of the Project Area is cleared agricultural land with a history of grazing and cropping.

A 30 year land access lease has been negotiated for the life of the Project and once completed, will be decommissioned and returned to agricultural uses. During the lease period, the Project will be connected to the Armidale-Koolkham 132 KV line that passes over the Project Area.

1.6 What is the size of the proposed action area development footprint (or work area) including disturbance footprint and avoidance footprint (if relevant)?

507

1.7 Is the proposed action a street address or lot?

Lot

- **1.7.2 Describe the lot number and title.**Lot 18, 61, 77, 80, 95, 105, 107, 108, 112 & 124 on DP755830
- 1.8 Primary Jurisdiction.

**New South Wales** 

1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

No

1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?

No

#### 1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action.

Start date 12/2018

End date 01/2048

# 1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and State and/or Local government requirements.

The Project is sited on land zoned as RU1 Primary Production under the Armidale Dumaresq Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Armidale Dumaresq LEP). Solar energy systems are prohibited in the RU1 Zone. However, pursuant to clause 34(7) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (ISEPP), development for the purpose of a solar energy system may be carried out by any person with consent on any land (except land in a prescribed rural residential zone). Therefore, the Project is permissible with consent.

As an activity that is permitted with consent, the Project was required to be assessed under Division 4.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. A Development Consent (SSD 7931) was granted for the Project on 18 July 2017, in accordance with Section 89E of the EP&A Act. A copy of the Development Consent is attached for your reference.

# 1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders.

Community consultation was required as part of the EIA process. The community consultation involved the following aspects:

Identification and consultation (ongoing) with neighboring residents;

Consultation with local organization;

Local Government Consultation;

State Government Consultation;

An onsite visit with statutory consultees through the SEAR's process;

Public Information sessions at Hillgrove and in Armidale;

Advertisements in the local media;

Establishment of a webpage;

Provision of an email address through which stakeholder can contact the project team; and



Media coverage at the local and regional scale.

#### **Aboriginal Community Consultation**

Consultation with the Aboriginal community was conducted by Remnant Archaeology Pty Ltd (RA) in accordance with guidance set out in the DECCW (2010a) document Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010. A summary of the consultation is provided in the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) attached with the referral documentation. Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) have had the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft ACHA prior to its finalisation and submission to OEH.

The ACHA identifies ongoing consultation commitments and recommends the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to guide this process.

1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project.

Environmental Impact Assessments were undertaken by Eco-logical Australia, which found that there was relatively minor or manageable environmental impacts. Impacts such as erosion or clearing can be managed by utilising a best practice strategies.

Refer to the attached Metz Solar Farm Eco-logical Impact Assessment, dated March 2017.

1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?

No

1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

### Section 2 - Matters of National Environmental Significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The <u>interactive map tool</u> can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest. Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

Your assessment of likely impacts should consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposal. The following resources can assist you in your assessment of likely impacts:

- <u>Profiles of relevant species/communities</u> (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;
- Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 Matters of National Environmental Significance;
- <u>Significant Impact Guideline 1.2 Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies.</u>
- 2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed species or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

No

2.5 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat?

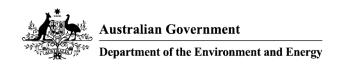
No

No

# 2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

Commonwealth marine areas)?		
No		

No 2.7 Is the proposed action to be taken on or near Commonwealth land? No 2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park? No 2.9 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on a water resource related to coal/gas/mining? No 2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action? No 2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth agency? No 2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas? No 2.13 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area?



### Section 3 - Description of the project area

Provide a description of the project area and the affected area, including information about the following features (where relevant to the project area and/or affected area, and to the extent not otherwise addressed in Section 2).

#### 3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area.

The Development Footprint is 507 ha in size which includes 8.38 ha of native vegetation and 499.1 ha of cleared land. The extent of native vegetation was determined through aerial imagery, in conjunction with site assessments (Eco-logical, 2017).

Three Plant Community Types (PCTs) were identified within the Development Footprint:

NR127: Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy open forest or woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion;

NR131: Broad-leaved Stringybark – Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands of the New England Tableland Bioregion; and

NR282: Yellow Box – Broad-leaved Stringybark shrubby open forest of the New England Tableland Bioregion.

All PCTs are heavily impacted by the current agricultural practices used within the Project Area. The mid-storey has been removed from all PCTs and the ground layer has been extensively modified through ploughing, nutrient enrichment, and the sowing of pasture grasses such as Lolium sp. and Bromus sp (Eco-logical, 2017).

The current biodiversity values of the Project Area are relatively low, with only sparse individuals of native species persisting within shaded areas of canopy trees. Species such as Calotis cuneifolia (Purple Burr-daisy), Crassula sieberiana (Australian Stonecrop), and Microlaena stipoides (Weeping Grass), as well as others present, are likely to persist following construction of the Project (Eco-logical (BAR), 2017).

### 3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows).

Limerick Creek, a 3rd order (Strahler) drainage line, intersects the study area and is fed by a number of 1st and 2nd order drainage lines found throughout the Project Area. The catchment area of Limerick Creek above and including the Site is approximately 800 ha. Limerick Creek joins Cooney Creek approximately 1.5 km downstream of the Proposal Site. Cooney Creek flows into Gara Gorge, part of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, before joining Salisbury Waters to eventually join the Macleay River which then flows to the Pacific Ocean near South West Rocks. At the time of the field assessment Limerick Creek and the feeding drainage lines

were dry, or near dry across the Site (Eco-logical, 2017).

Small portions of the Site (72 ha) drain directly to Cooney Creek to the west, and Bakers Creek to the east (45 ha). A search of relevant databases did not identify any existing hydrological or water quality data relating to Limerick Creek, Cooney Creek or the Gara River downstream of the Site (Eco-logical (BAR), 2017).

#### 3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area.

Native vegetation is characterized by grassy open forest or woodland including a mix of Blaskely's Red Gum, Yellow Box grasses and Broad-leaved Stringybark. The vegetation is considered of low ecological value and consists of 8.38 ha of native vegetation and 499.1 ha of cleared land within the Proposed Development Area (Eco-logical (BAR), 2017). The Proposed Development Area is currently used for cattle grazing and comprises of cleared land and heavily disturbed regrowth vegetation (Eco-logical (BAR), 2017).

Soils across the development site contrast on sedimentary rocks and granite, mellow (soft and friable) and well drained on upper slopes, to harsh and poorly drained on lower slopes. Variable stony loams to deep black earths occur in valley floors on basalt (Eco-logical (BAR), 2017).

There are five soil landscapes that have been mapped within the Study Area including the Argyle, Cubba Cubbah, Devils Elbow, Limerick Creek, and Middle Earth soil landscapes. The majority of the study area comprises of the Cubba Cubbah and Middle Earth soil landscapes, which is typified by generally flat to undulating plains and low rises on Hillgrove Adamellite. Soils are moderately deep (> 60 cm) and moderately well drained (Eco-logical (BAR), 2017).

# 3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area.

There are no outstanding natural features or any other important or unique values relevant to the Study Area identified through desktop analysis and site survey.

#### 3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area.

Native vegetation communities within the Study Area are characterised by open woodlands and yellow box grasses. No threatened flora species protected under Commonwealth were confirmed present, or are considered likely to occur at the Study Area. No TECs protected under the EPBC Act occur at the Study Area.

# 3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The topography of the Proposed Development Area has an undulating landscape, where

elevation ranges between 990 - 1090 m Australian Height Datum (AHD).

#### 3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area.

No threatened species habitat, EEC or CEEC have been identified within the proposed development area. The project is located primarily on cleared areas to minimize vegetation loss. A small amount of vegetation will be required to be removed to facilitate the development. However, the majority of biodiversity area can be retained in adjacent areas.

# 3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project area.

No

#### 3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area.

A Cultural Heritage Assessment was undertaken within the Proposed Development Area. Aboriginal heritage objects and places were found, in particular a stone arrangement which is of high significance (Remnant Archaeology, 2017). The other items that were found related to stone objects and scarred trees. It is recommended a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) be developed following detailed design, indicating where avoidance is not possible (Remnant Archaeology, 2017). It is recommend that a 10m buffer be built around significant artifacts with high visibility barrier fencing around it (Remnant Archaeology, 2017).

# 3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area.

Lease Agreement (Solar Farm).

#### 3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area.

#### **Existing Use**

The site visit identified the majority of the Proposed Development Area as cleared land (499.1 ha) that is used for grazing cattle. A high voltage transmission line cuts through the centre of the site, with a homestead located at the south-eastern corner of the lease area. Access is currently provided to the site via Bayley Park Road.

#### **Proposed Use**

The proposed use involves the development of a large-scale solar facility within the identified Proposed Development Area, including PV arrays, control building, car park area and access

tracks to facilitate the operation of a solar farm on the site.

### **Section 4 - Measures to avoid or reduce impacts**

Provide a description of measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce, manage or offset any relevant impacts of the action. Include, if appropriate, any relevant reports or technical advice relating to the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed measures.

Examples of relevant measures to avoid or reduce impacts may include the timing of works, avoidance of important habitat, specific design measures, or adoption of specific work practices.

## 4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action.

Measures that will be undertaken to avoid and reduce impacts will include the following actions (Eco-logical, 2017):

Develop a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will include;

Temporary fencing to delineate clearing boundaries;

Marking of trees for retention within open areas;

Clearing of mobile plant prior to works to prevent the spread of weeds and pathogens;

Weed management plan;

Sediment controls along Limerick Creek to prevent impacts downstream and signage within the works area to advise contractors of their responsibilities.

Pre-clearing assessment by a qualified ecologists;

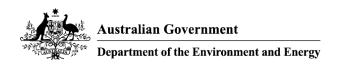
Implementation of a two staged clearing process, which includes:

Stage 1 - mark all habitat tree and removing all other vegetation; and

Stage 2 - removing habitat tree under the guidance of a gualified ecologist;

Fencing will be undertaken around existing biodiversity areas to prevent rubbish dumping from contractors and around significant artifacts; and

Given the low biodiversity values at the site, the monitoring program will be focused on likely ongoing impacts of the development such as erosion.



# 4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved.

The design of the Project has considered the location of key areas, including the small patches and strips of remnant vegetation. The Development Footprint has been strategically located and is placed largely on cleared sites of low-value, which includes heavily disturbed remnant and regrowth areas. As such, there is an avoidance of high value vegetation achieving appropriate environmental outcomes.

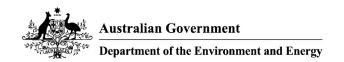


No

### Section 5 - Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

A checkbox tick identifies each of the matters of National Environmental Significance you

identified in section 2 of this application as likely to be a significant impact.
Review the matters you have identified below. If a matter ticked below has been incorreidentified you will need to return to Section 2 to edit.
5.1.1 World Heritage Properties
No
5.1.2 National Heritage Places
No
5.1.3 Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar Wetlands)
No
5.1.4 Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community
No
5.1.5 Listed migratory species
No
5.1.6 Commonwealth marine environment
No
5.1.7 Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land
No
5.1.8 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
No
5.1.9 A water resource, in relation to coal/gas/mining



#### 5.1.10 Protection of the environment from nuclear actions

No

#### 5.1.11 Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions

No

#### 5.1.12 Commonwealth Heritage places overseas

No

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action.

No threatened flora or fauna species protected under Commonwealth were confirmed present, or are considered likely to occur at the Study Area. No TECs protected under the EPBC Act occur at the Study Area. The removal of vegetation is not considered to have a significant impact as habitat was historically disturbed by the following:

- Evidence of recent clearing throughout;
- Cattle grazing throughout; and
- Access tracks and adjacent transmission line corridors.

# Section 6 – Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

Provide details of any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against the person proposing to take the action that pertain to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Please explain in further detail.

Yes - We have not had any action taken against us by any regulator on environmental grounds.

6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application.

There has been no proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law which has taken place for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the person taking the action or any related permits.

6.3 If it is a corporation undertaking the action will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and framework?

Yes

6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

The corporation doesn't at present have an environmental policy, but where any of our projects have the potential to impact MNES we are committed to submitting a referral for assessment.

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

No



### **Section 7 – Information sources**

You are required to provide the references used in preparing the referral including the reliability of the source.

# 7.1 List references used in preparing the referral (please provide the reference source reliability and any uncertainties of source).

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties	
Environmental Impact	High – Resource provide by	N/A	
Assessment, prepared by Eco –suitable qualified consultants logical, 2017			
Biodiversity Assessment Report, prepared by Ecological, 2017	High – Resource provide by suitable qualified consultants	N/A	
Cultural Heritage Assessment, prepared by Remnant Archaeology, 2017	High – Resource provide by suitable qualified consultants	N/A	

### Section 8 - Proposed alternatives

You are required to complete this section if you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but not proposed.

#### 8.0 Provide a description of the feasible alternative?

N/A - The proposed layout has been optimised to avoid impacts.

8.1 Select the relevant alternatives related to your proposed action.

8.27 Do you have another alternative?

No



### Section 9 - Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

9.2 Organisation

9.2.1 Job Title

Australia Manager

9.2.2 First Name

**Daniel** 

9.2.3 Last Name

Ruoss

9.2.4 E-mail

Daniel.Ruoss@clenergy.com

9.2.5 Postal Address

1/10 Duerdin Street

1 Clayton VIC 3168 Australia

9.2.6 ABN/ACN

**ABN** 

34610480281 - METZ NEWCO PTY LTD

9.2.7 Organisation Telephone



### Section 9 - Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

9.2 Organisation

9.2.1 Job Title

Australia Manager

9.2.2 First Name

**Daniel** 

9.2.3 Last Name

Ruoss

9.2.4 E-mail

Daniel.Ruoss@clenergy.com

9.2.5 Postal Address

1/10 Duerdin Street

1 Clayton VIC 3168 Australia

9.2.6 ABN/ACN

**ABN** 

34610480281 - METZ NEWCO PTY LTD

9.2.7 Organisation Telephone



+6013 9239 8088

### 9.2.8 Organisation E-mail

Daniel.Ruoss@clenergy.com

9.2.9 I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

Not applicable

Not applicable
Small Business Declaration
I have read the Department of the Environment and Energy's guidance in the online form concerning the definition of a small a business entity and confirm that I qualify for a small business exemption.
Signature: Date:
9.2.9.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations
No
9.2.9.3 Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made
Person proposing the action - Declaration
, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.  Signature:  Date:
the action describe in this EPBC Act Referral.  Date:
Signature: Date: (69 / 2018)



### 9.3 Is the Proposed Designated Proponent an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.5 Organisation

9.5.1 Job Title

Australia Manager

9.5.2 First Name

**Daniel** 

9.5.3 Last Name

Ruoss

9.5.4 E-mail

Daniel.Ruoss@clenergy.com

9.5.5 Postal Address

1/10 Duerdin Street

1

Clayton VIC 3168 Australia

9.5.6 ABN/ACN

**ABN** 

34610480281 - METZ NEWCO PTY LTD

9.5.7 Organisation Telephone

+613 9239 8088

9.5.8 Organisation E-mail

daniel.ruoss@clenergy.com

**Proposed designated proponent - Declaration** 



I,, the proposed designated proponent, consent	to
the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this	
EPBC Act Referral,	
Signature: 05/2018	

### 9.6 Is the Referring Party an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.8 Organisation

9.8.1 Job Title

Partner

9.8.2 First Name

Paul

9.8.3 Last Name

**Douglass** 

9.8.4 E-mail

Paul.Douglass@erm.com

9.8.5 Postal Address

PO Box 803 Newcastle NSW 2300 Australia

#### 9.8.6 ABN/ACN

**ABN** 

12002773248 - ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED

9.8.7 Organisation Telephone

073839 8393

9.8.8 Organisation E-mail



michael.rookwood@erm.com

Referring Party -	Declaration
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I,Paul Douglass	I declare that to the best of my knowledge the
information I have given on, or attached to this	s EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and
correct. I understand that giving false or misle	
Signature: Date: 1	1 September 2018



#### **Appendix A - Attachments**

The following attachments have been supplied with this EPBC Act Referral:

- 1. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_biodiversity\_assessment\_report\_part\_1of2.pdf
- 2. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_biodiversity\_assessment\_report\_part\_2of2.pdf
- 3. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_conditions\_of\_consent.pdf
- 4. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_cultural\_heritage\_assessment\_part\_1of3.pdf
- 5. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_cultural\_heritage\_assessment\_part\_2of3.pdf
- 6. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_cultural\_heritage\_assessment\_part\_3of3.pdf
- 7. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_main\_report\_part\_1.pdf
- 8. 0469626 metz solar eis main report part 2.pdf
- 9. 0469626\_metz\_solar\_eis\_-\_project\_plans.pdf